

Application No. 10/825,456

Docket No.: 65042-0443

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0035] Pin 32 includes a threaded second end 46 and a non-circular cross-section ~~[[43]]~~33 disposed along a portion of the pin between first end 39 and second end 46. While a "square" cross section is shown, generally any non-circular shape will be acceptable.

[0036] As best shown in ~~[[FIGs.]]~~FIGS. 6 and 7, lock plate subassembly is shown inserted through a mating aperture 47 of base plate 20. Aperture 47 is shown tapered in cross-section so that up and down movement of pin 32 is unimpeded even if the pin is offset from illustrated axis A-A. Aperture 47 includes a non-circular periphery along at least a portion of its longitudinal extent that mates with the corresponding surface 47 of pin 32 in an interference fit upon pin rotation such that while the pin 32 may move up and down within the aperture 47, at most minimal rotation is permitted between pin 32 and base plate 20. As a result, as the pin 32 is rotated, the base plate 20 and tie down 18 are rotated to substantially the same angular extent. Moreover, while the lock plate 30 is shown secured to the pin 32 using typical welding or related securement approaches, it could instead also include a corresponding non-circular aperture (not shown) to minimize rotation of the lock plate 30 with respect to the pin 32.

[0039] When the tie down cleat assembly 10 is in a non-secured orientation the thrust washer 36 has a tendency to move up and down along axis A-A and to twist about the longitudinally extending axis of the base plate aperture 47. Thus, in a preferred embodiment of the invention and as shown in FIG. 4, thrust washer 36 has a generally ~~[[planer]]~~planar first surface and two generally perpendicular downwardly extending ears 37, received in corresponding pockets 48 extending into the upper surface of the base plate 20 adjacent to, but spaced away from counter bore 45, as shown best in FIG. 3. The two outwardly extending tabs 37 of thrust washer 36 that mate with the base plate 20 at pockets 48 generally keep thrust washer 36 in place, prevent accidental rotation, but still permit movement of pin 32 along axis A-A. Preferably, the extent of the ~~[[ears]]~~tabs 37 with respect to axis A-A is such that they are greater than the longitudinal travel of the pin 32 between the secured and unsecured orientations of the tie down cleat assembly 10. The counter bore 45 itself may also be shaped to prevent accidental rotation of the thrust washer 36.